

Introduced by Senator Romero

February 18, 2005

An act to add Section 60851.1 to the Education Code, relating to pupil assessment.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 517, as introduced, Romero. High school graduation.

Existing law requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction, with the approval of the State Board of Education, to develop a high school exit examination in accordance with state academic content standards. Existing law requires, commencing with the 2003-04 school year and each school year thereafter, each pupil completing grade 12 to successfully pass the exit examination as a condition of graduation from high school. Existing law grants authority to the state board to delay, on or before August 1, 2003, the date upon which each pupil completing grade 12 is required to pass the exit examination as a condition of graduation from high school to a date other than the 2003-04 school year.

This bill would declare that it is the intent of the Legislature to delay the effective date of the exit examination requirement until specified conditions have been satisfied, including the consideration and adoption by the Legislature and implementation by the state of a plan to provide adequate resources for its public schools and a determination that the examination meets specified ethical standards.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 60851.1 is added to the Education Code,
2 to read:
3 60851.1. It is the intent of the Legislature that the exit
4 examination requirement, pursuant to Section 60851, not take
5 effect until both of the following conditions are satisfied:
6 (a) The Legislature has considered and adopted, and the state
7 has implemented a plan to provide adequate resources for
8 elementary and secondary public schools in accordance with the
9 recommendations of the Quality Education Commission.
10 (b) The exit examination meets the ethical standards adopted
11 by the American Psychological Association, the American
12 Educational Research Association, and the National Council on
13 Measurement in Education for the purposes of promoting
14 fairness in testing and avoiding unintended consequences.